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REMARKS

Claims 1-65 are canceled. Claims 66-67, 69, 71-72, and 74 are currently amended. Claims 68, 70, 73, and 75-79 were previously presented. Accordingly, claims 66-79 are pending examination.

Rejection of Claims 66 Under 35 USC §103

Claim 66 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication number 2002/0001745 (Garstein) in view of U.S. Patent number 4,863,815 (Chang)

Claim 66 has been amended to recite “forming the electrode assembly includes winding the first electrode strip and the second electrode strip around a pin while the pin extends through a first end cap” and “fastening the first end cap to a case after forming the electrode assembly” These limitations are not taught or suggested by Garstein in view of Chang.

Rejection of claims 67-79

Each of claims 67-79 depends directly or indirectly from independent claim 66. Since independent claims 66 is believed to be in condition for allowance, claims 67-79 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone or e-mail the undersigned with any questions.

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